

# ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

There is disclosed a power-saving sensor system such as a distance measurement sensor making use of light projection type triangulation. The sensor system has a sensor means and a CPU for controlling the supply of electrical power to the sensor means, accepting the output from the sensor means, and performing desired processing. The CPU turns on signals  $P_1$ ,  $P_2$ ,  $P_3$  in response to a trigger signal  $T_p$  from a timer circuit, thus supplying electrical power to a distance measurement module. A distance measurement IC within the module produces an emission signal when the operating signal  $P_3$  is turned on.

This activates the sensor means to perform a measurement of a distance. The presence or absence of an object is determined from the detected distance value. According to the presence or absence, a transistor  $Tr_2$  is turned on or off. A signal indicating the distance or the presence or absence of an object is produced from a terminal  $T_8$ . The CPU detects the end of light projection by making use of an inversion  $Iri$  of the emission signal. Immediately thereafter, a signal  $P_4$  is turned on to turn on a switch  $SW_2$ . The signal is accepted through a terminal *Data*. Immediately after the end of the acceptance, the signals  $P_4$ ,  $P_2$ ,  $P_1$ , and  $P_3$  are turned off, cutting off the supply of power to the distance measurement module.